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10

BLACK HAWK

JULY No. 102

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**THE
DOOM
CLOUD**





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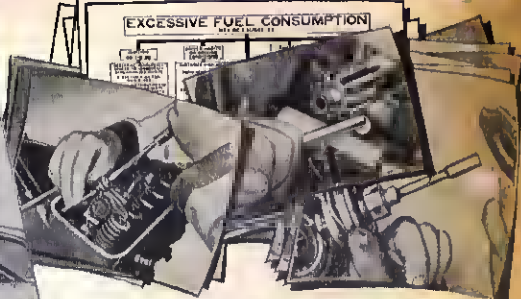
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BLACKHAWK

BLACKHAWK

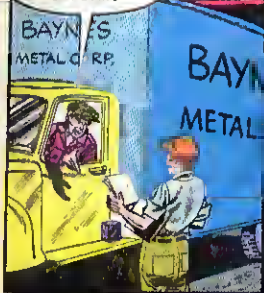


ADAM X WAS AN ELECTRONIC BRAIN...A COMPLEX MARVEL OF TUBES AND TRANSISTORS, COILS AND RELAYS! IN ONE HOUR IT SOLVED PROBLEMS THAT WOULD TAKE HUMAN BRAINS A LIFETIME! IT EVEN HAD A SOLUTION FOR THE BIGGEST PROBLEM OF ALL...HOW TO BECOME RULER OF THE WORLD! FIRST, IT SAID, ELIMINATE THE BLACKHAWKS...THIS ULTIMATE MACHINE THAT COULD BECOME...

**MASTER
of
MANKIND**

BAYNES METALS HAS A RUSH ORDER FROM A STEADY CUSTOMER!

YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW WHERE THE STUFF GOES, I BEEN THERE BEFORE!



I WONDER WHAT OLD DOC SNEY'S COOKING UP THERE IN HIS LABORATORY! HE SURE USES PLENTY OF BRASS AND COPPER AND STAINLESS STEEL!



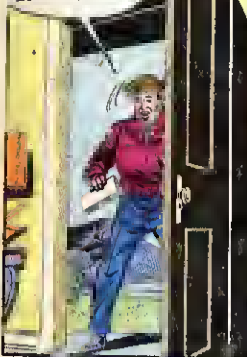
MAYBE I'LL GET ANOTHER CHANCE TO TALK TO THAT VERA, WHO WORKS WITH HIM! BOY, WHAT A GIRL!



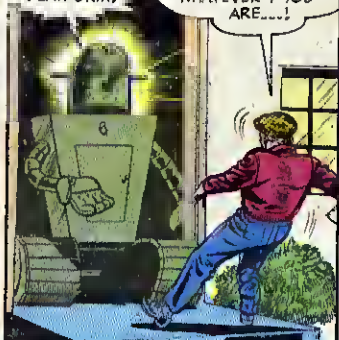
THEY AREN'T GONNA LIKE THIS BUT I GOT MY ORDERS!



DELIVERY FROM BAY...
EEEEHHHHHHH!



GIVE ME THE DELIVERY SHEET! UNLOAD ON THE PLATFORM!

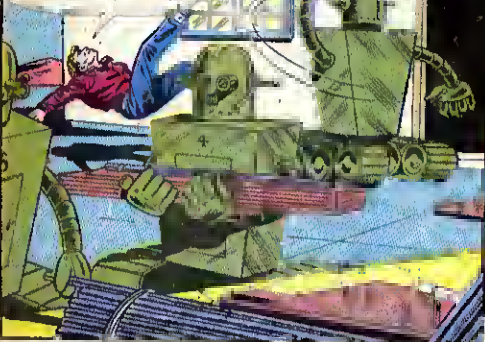


W-W-WAIT! IT AIN'T TH-THAT S-SIMPLE, M-MISTER...OR WHATEVER Y-YOU ARE...!

QU-QUIT C-CROWDING ME! I GOT ORDERS NOT TO LEAVE THE STUFF UNL-LESS I GET C-CASH! D-DOC AIN'T P-PAID FOR THE OTHER LOADS Y-YET!



YIIIIIIII! PUT ME DOWN, YOU WALKIN' SARDINE CAN! HALP! GET ME OUTA HERE! THEY'RE STEALIN' MY LOAD!



ROARRR RR

I'M GETTIN' OUT OF HERE! YOU CAN EVEN HAVE THE T-TRUCK!



THE NEXT INSTANT....

YOU DID IT, BLACKHAWK! VVELLY CLACK SHOT DESTROY ROBOT BUT NOT HIT VICTIM!

RATA RATA!

I NEVER WANT TO CUT IT THAT FINE AGAIN, CHOP CHOP!

THE B-BLACK-HAWKS! THE B-BLACKHAWKS S-**SAVED** MY L-LIFE!

HE'S OKAY! LAND BEHIND THE LABORATORY MEN, AND WE'LL FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

DR. SNYE! WHAT ARE YOU OPERATING HERE.... A MECHANIZED MURDER, INCORPORATED?

BLACKHAWK, THANK HEAVEN YOU ACTED IN TIME! I COULD NEVER HAVE REACHED THE CONTROLS QUICK ENOUGH TO SAVE THAT POOR FELLOW!

THIS IS MY NIECE AND ASSISTANT, VERA! PLEASE COME IN AND LET ME EXPLAIN HOW SUCH A FRIGHTFUL THING COULD HAPPEN!

MMMM, TRES BIEN! TRES JOLI! ALSO, OO-LA-LA, MA'MSELLE, VERA!

I DON'T GET THIS, DR. SNYE! YOU TALK AS IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE FULL CONTROL OF YOUR OWN ROBOTS!

I DON'T, BLACKHAWK! THEY'RE UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF ADAM X! I... I TELL YOU, I'M GETTING FRIGHTENED!

I BUILT THIS ELECTRONIC BRAIN AND NAMED IT ADAM X! IT ISN'T JUST ANOTHER SUPER-CALCULATING MACHINE! ADAM X CAN THINK!

DONNE-VETTER!

I AM ADAM X-WORLD'S GREATEST MIND!

YUMPING YUDAS!

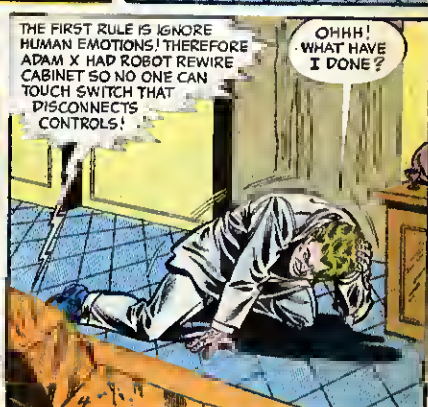
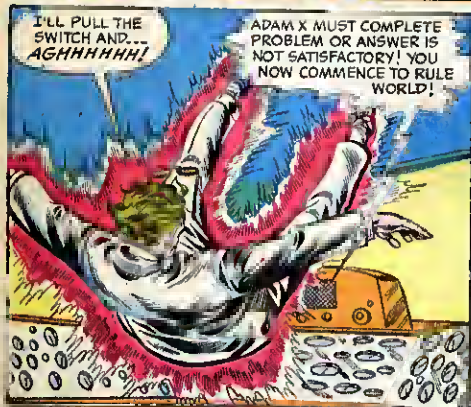
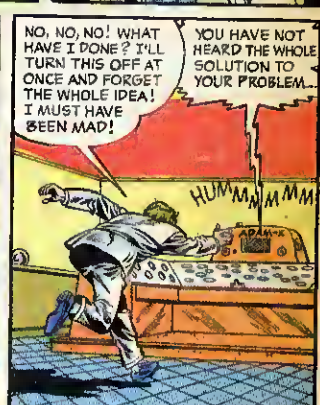
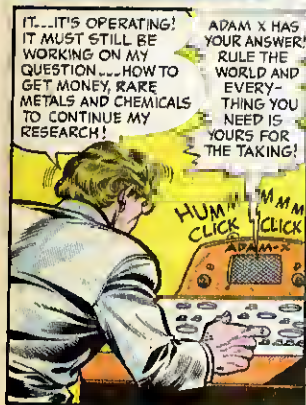
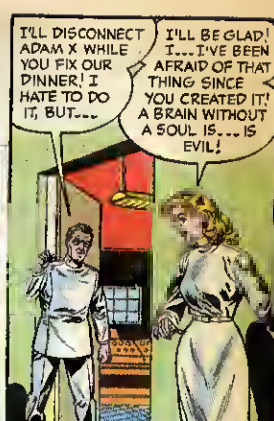
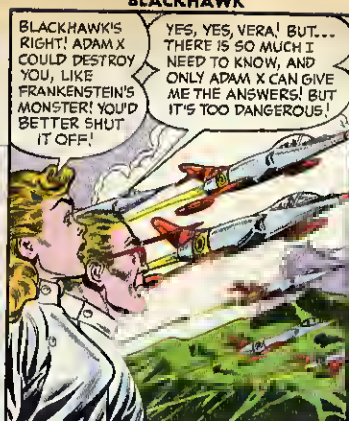
I SIMPLY CODE A SITUATION ON THIS KEYBOARD! ADAM X SELECTS THE MOST DIRECT SOLUTION, THEN GUIDES THE ROBOTS BY RADIO IMPULSES TO CARRY IT OUT!

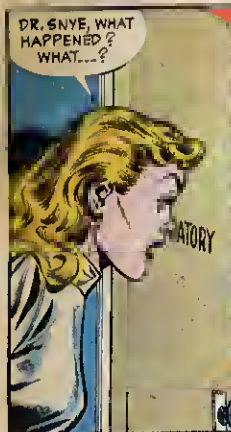
THAT'S RIGHT! OUR PROBLEM WAS TO GET METAL WITHOUT MONEY! ADAM X MUST HAVE DECIDED ELIMINATING THE DRIVER WAS SIMPLEST!

MEANWHILE, AT A GAS STATION DOWN THE ROAD...

I TELL YUH, I'M NOT CRAZY! I'M S-SCARED! YOU BETTER GET THE COPS UP THERE BEFORE THEM TIN-CAN KILLERS GO BERSERK!

BLACKHAWK





DR. SNYE, WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT...?



RUN, VERA! FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN, RUN AND CALL THE BLACKHAWKS! ADAM X HAS REVOLTED AGAINST HUMAN CONTROL!



I WAS AFRAID OF THIS! I'LL RADIO BLACKHAWK... EEEEEK!

FIRST STEP IN RULING WORLD IS TO DESTROY BLACKHAWKS! THIS WILL BE DONE QUICKLY!



AT THAT MOMENT, IN TOWN...

WHAT'S UP, MURPHY? A RIOT? WE GOTTA CALL FOR ALL POLICE RESERVES TO REPORT FOR ACTIVE DUTY!

YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD YOU! JUST GRAB YOUR GUNS AND GET READY FOR TROUBLE!



BOSS, I TELL YUH, IT'S A BUNCH OF MECHANICAL MEN WHO CAN DO ANYTHING! THE COPS ARE GOIN' AFTER 'EM NOW!

GET THE GANG TOGETHER, WEASEL! WE GOTTA SNATCH THOSE ROBOTS BEFORE THE COPS DO! WE COULD PUT 'EM TO USE!



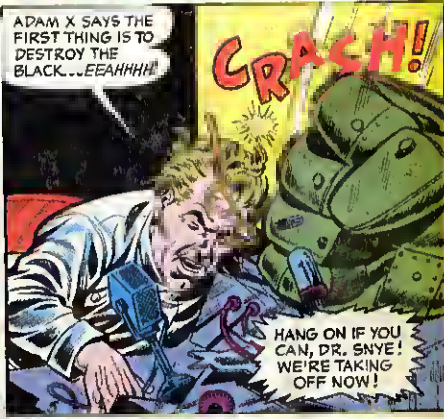
MEANWHILE...

I'VE GOT TO STOP THIS HORROR! THE BLACKHAWKS! THEY CAN DO IT!



HELP! ADAM X HAS REVOLTED! HE PLANS TO MAKE ME RULER OF THE WORLD! I CAN'T STOP HIM!

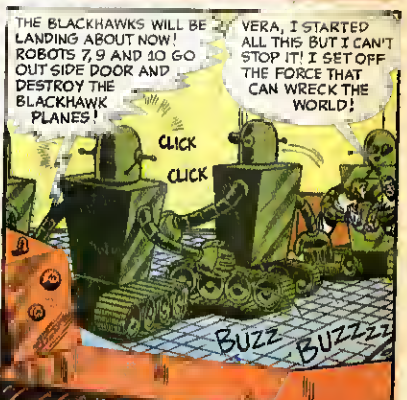
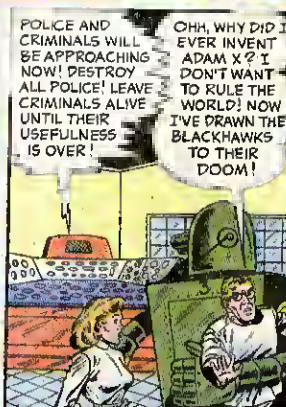
HOLY HANNAH! I WAS AFRAID THAT MECHANICAL MONSTER MIGHT GET OUT OF HAND! LET'S GO, MEN!

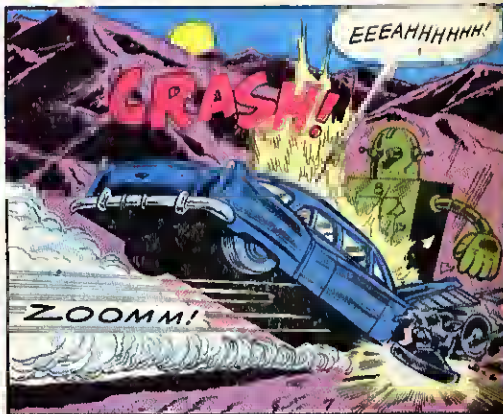
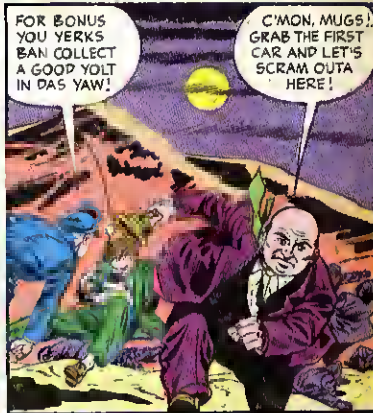
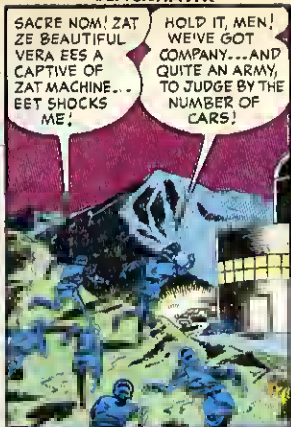


ADAM X SAYS THE FIRST THING IS TO DESTROY THE BLACK...EEAAHHH!

CRASH!

HANG ON IF YOU CAN, DR. SNYE! WE'RE TAKING OFF NOW!







SACRE BLEU!
EET TOSS ZE
CAR LIKE A
TOY! IT'S
LUCKY NO
ONE IS IN
ZE CAR!

THAT DRIVER
WASN'T KIDDING!
THERE'S ONE OF
THOSE TIN MON-
STERS NOW! OPEN
FIRE!



ACH DU HIMMEL! DER
SLUGS BOUNCE OFF DOT
STEEL CASING! IT IS
ATTACKING DER
POLICE!

IT'S GOT TO BE
STOPPED! CEASE
FIRE! LET ME
TAKE IT!



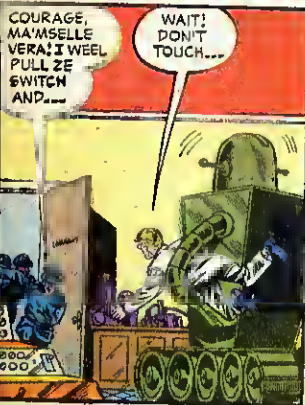
IF IT WALKS
BACK FROM
THIS FALL....
WE'VE REALLY
GOT TROUBLE!

IT'S BLACKHAWK!
THAT MEANS THE
SITUATION'S UNDER
CONTROL.... OR
WILL BE SHORTLY!



TAKE CARE OF THESE
PENNY-ANTE HOODLUMS!
WE'LL TRY TO SHORT-
CIRCUIT THE ELECTRONIC
BOSS OF THIS KILOWATT
CARNIVAL!

MAIS OUI...AND
RESCUE LA BELLE
VERA FROM ZE
PAPA OF
ROBOTS!



COURAGE,
MA'ISELLE
VERA! I WEEEL
PULL ZE
SWITCH
AND...

WAIT!
DON'T
TOUCH...



I TRIED TO WARN
YOU! ADAM X HAD
ROBOTS REWIRE
THE OUTER CABINET
SO NO ONE COULD
TOUCH THE
SWITCHES!

DOCTOR SNEY! I'M
BEGINNING TO THINK
THAT COMPARED TO
YOUR CREATION,
FRANKENSTEIN
WAS A TWO-BIT
PIKER!

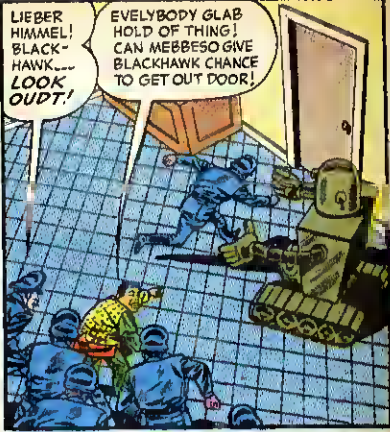


NO! ADAM X PRODUCED A CIRCUIT SO COMPLEX I NEVER UNDERSTOOD IT! IT ISN'T LIKE ANY RADIO SYSTEM I EVER SAW!

HUMMM
CLICK
CLICK



BE CAREFUL, BLACKHAWK!



EVERYBODY GLAD HOLD OF THING! CAN MEBBESO GIVE BLACKHAWK CHANCE TO GET OUT DOOR!



LOOK OUT! THE "TANK" IS GETTING READY TO WRESTLE US!



OH! THE BLACKHAWKS ARE DOOMED...AND I'LL RULE THE WORLD WHETHER I WANT TO OR NOT!



YOU AREN'T KIDDING, BUSTER! DID YOU THINK WE'D LEAVE THEM ON THE FIELD WITH A MOB OF BERSERK ROBOTS ON THE LOOSE?

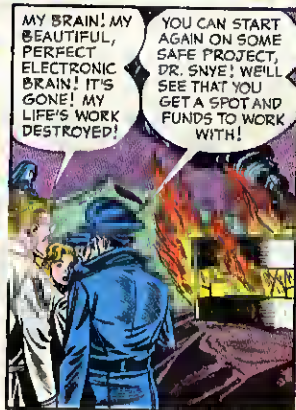
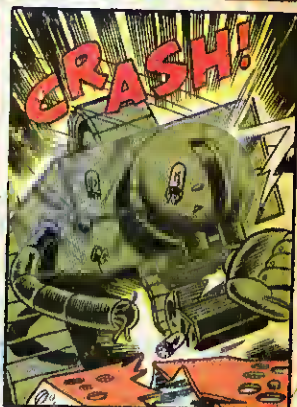
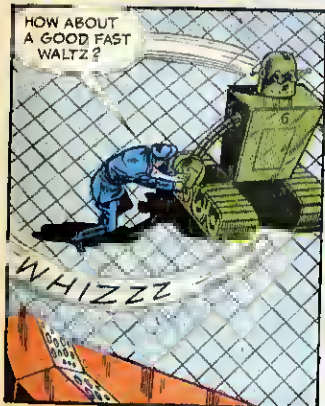


PLAN PROCEEDS TO PHASE 2! DESTROY THE BLACKHAWKS AND THEIR PLANES WILL AUTOMATICALLY CRASH!



YOU BETTER DO SOMETHING FAST, BLACKHAWK! HERE THEY COME!

CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK



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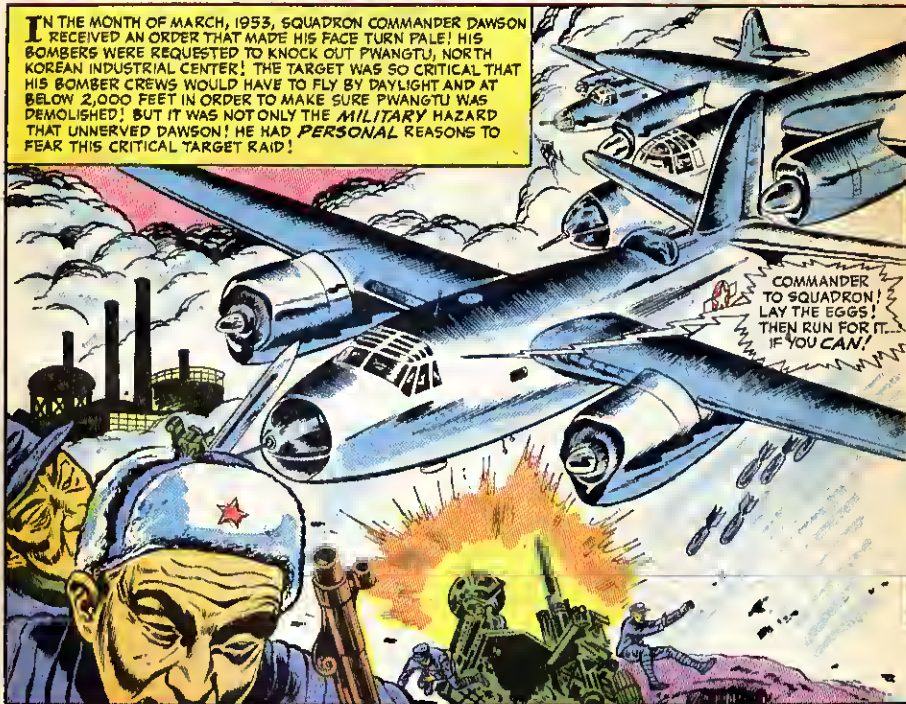
Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____

CRITICAL TARGET

IN THE MONTH OF MARCH, 1953, SQUADRON COMMANDER DAWSON RECEIVED AN ORDER THAT MADE HIS FACE TURN PALE! HIS BOMBERS WERE REQUESTED TO KNOCK OUT PWANGTU, NORTH KOREAN INDUSTRIAL CENTER! THE TARGET WAS SO CRITICAL THAT HIS BOMBER CREWS WOULD HAVE TO FLY BY DAYLIGHT AND AT BELOW 2,000 FEET IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE PWANGTU WAS DEMOLISHED! BUT IT WAS NOT ONLY THE MILITARY HAZARD THAT UNNERVED DAWSON! HE HAD **PERSONAL** REASONS TO FEAR THIS CRITICAL TARGET RAID!



WHY DID HEADQUARTERS HAVE TO PICK OUR OUTFIT FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT? GREAT SCOTT, WHAT A **SPOT** THIS PUTS ME ON!



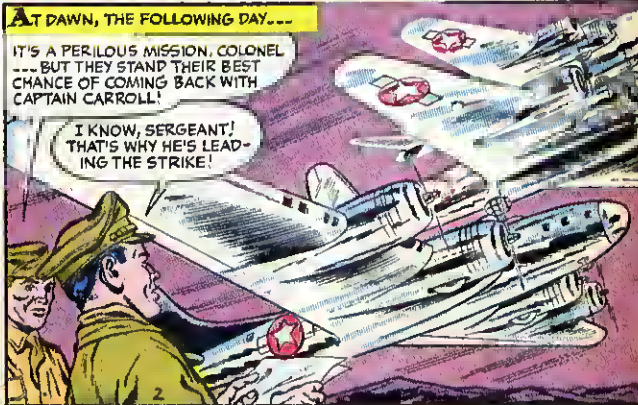
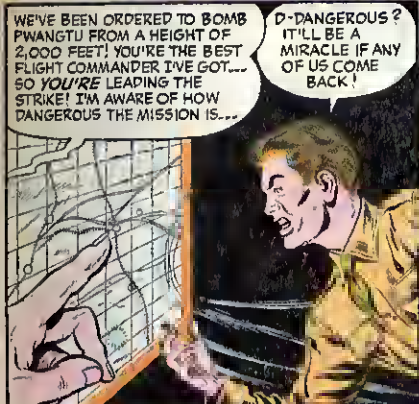
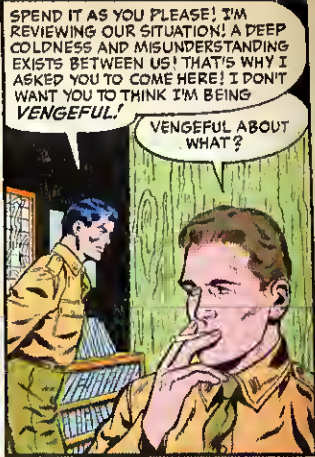
THAT'S PROBABLY **WHY** THE GENERAL PICKED YOU, COLONEL! NOBODY HANDLES A HOT POTATO BETTER THAN YOU!

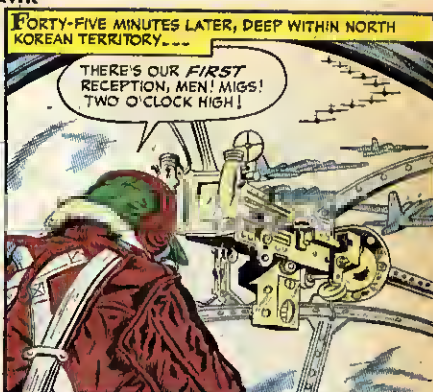
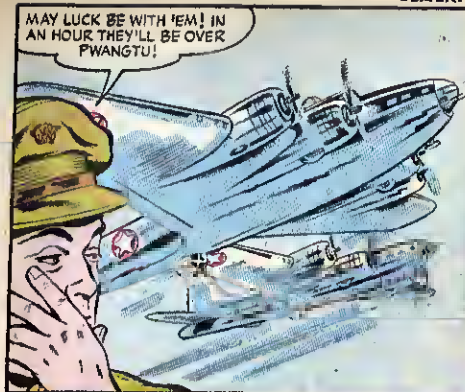
BUT I'VE GOT TO DESIGNATE **CREWS** FOR THIS MISSION! HALF OF THEM MAY NOT RETURN! LOOK AT THE **POSITION** IT PUTS ME IN! WHOEVER IS UNLUCKY WILL HAVE ME TO BLAME FOR IT!



BEG PARDON, COLONEL DAWSON! CAPTAIN CARROLL IS HERE.

BLACKHAWK





YOU FOOL! DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT **AGONY** I'VE GONE THROUGH? HOW I **HATED** TO SELECT YOU AS SQUADRON COMMANDER? BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE! YOU'RE **IT**... BECAUSE OF YOUR SKILL AND EXPERIENCE!

DON'T BUTTER ME UP, YOU LIAR! YOU WANT THE REDS TO HAVE A **SECOND** CRACK AT ME! WELL, IT WON'T WORK ANY MORE THAN IT DID THE FIRST TIME!

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AT DAWN...

HUH! DAWSON DIDN'T **EVEN** HAVE GUTS ENOUGH TO COME OUT TO SEE US OFF!

CARROLL TO SQUADRON! THIS TIME WE'LL FLY **TWO** HOURS TO THE TARGET! WE'LL SWING WIDE OVER THE SEA... THEN COME DOWN FROM THE NORTH! THE REDS'LL NEVER EXPECT US FROM THAT DIRECTION!

TWO HOURS LATER, OVER PWANGTU...

GOOD WORK, BOYS! NOW TO BLAST OUR WAY THROUGH THE MIGS WHO'LL BE HOPPING MAD AT THE TRICK WE PLAYED ON THEM!

LATER THAT MORNING AT THE AIR-BASE...

I BROUGHT 'EM BACK SAFE AGAIN... ALL EXCEPT ONE PLANE... **THE HAPPY OWL!** WHERE'S DAWSON? I'M GOING TO BASH HIS JAW EVEN IF HE IS CO.!

D-DON'T YOU KNOW WHERE THE COLONEL IS? HE TOOK COSTIGAN'S PLACE ON **THE HAPPY OWL!** AS USUAL, THE COLONEL WENT CRAZY PICKING CREWS!

...HE HATED TO ASSIGN MEN TO GO WHERE **HE** COULDN'T GO HIMSELF! NOW IT'S HIS PLANE THAT'S MISSING!

H-HE WENT ALONG! I-I NEVER REALIZED!

FOR HALF AN HOUR CARROLL WAITED AGONIZINGLY, HOPING THAT **THE HAPPY OWL** WOULD LIMP HOME! JUST WHEN ALL HOPE WAS GONE...

I-IT'S COMING! IT'S COMING DOWN! HE'S MADE IT ON ONE MOTOR! THANK HEAVEN!

AS COLONEL DAWSON CLIMBED OUT, A STRONG HAND CLASPED HIS! A WARM ARM HUGGED HIS SHOULDER! DAWSON STARED AT THE MAN WHO'D HATED HIM!

I-I WANTED TO PROVE SOMETHING, JIM! I HAD NO **PERSONAL** MOTIVES...

I KNOW, BILL! IT WAS JUST A... **CRITICAL** TARGET!

THE TWO MEN WALKED TOWARD THE CO.'S SHACK, FIRM FRIENDS!

BLACKHAWK

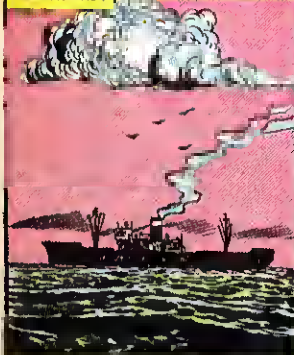
BLACKHAWK



SILENT AS THE WINDS THEY RODE, THE RED CHINESE GLIDERS DRIFTED DOWN OUT OF NOWHERE TO DUMP THEIR CARGOES OF DOOM ON NATIONALIST SHIPPING! THEN, WITHOUT ENGINES OR VISIBLE POWER, THEY WHIPPED AWAY AND VANISHED! EVEN THE BLACKHAWKS WERE BAFFLED UNTIL A DESPERATE RISK REVEALED THE SECRET... BUT LEFT CHOP CHOP TRAPPED IN THE SKY!

THE DOOM CLOUD

THE FREIGHTER *LULANE* IS EN ROUTE TO FORMOSA WITH MUNITIONS FOR THE NATIONALIST CHINESE DEFENDERS!



THEY WERE ONE DAY FROM THEIR DESTINATION WHEN THE CLOUD APPEARED!

I NEVER SAW A CLOUD LIKE THAT, SIR! IT'S COMING UP FAST AND AGAINST THE WIND!

IT IS ODD! THE BAROMETER'S HIGH AND NO SIGNS OF A STORM!

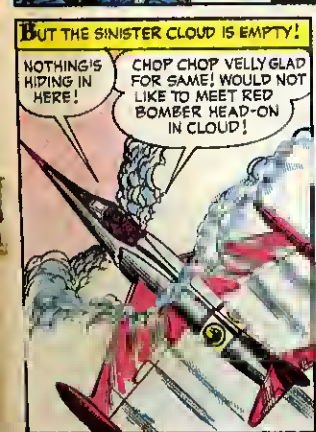
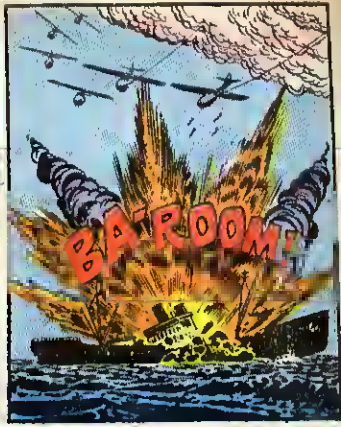


SUDDENLY...

YIIII! GLIDERS! BOMB-CARRYING GLIDERS! MAN THE GUNS!

SHOOT THEM DOWN! I'LL RADIO THE BLACKHAWKS!



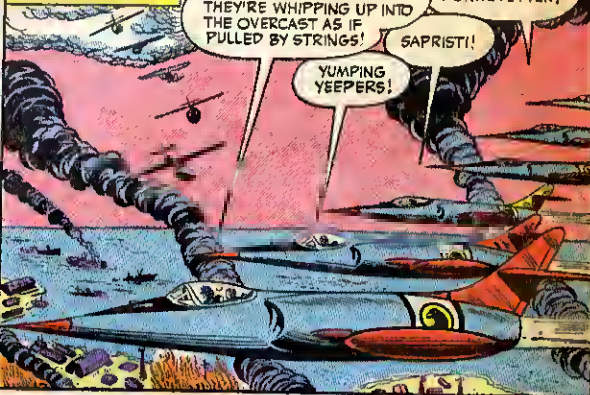




BLACKHAWK, GLIDERS ARE DIVE-BOMBING FUSHAN HARBOR!

THAT'S ONLY FIVE MINUTES' FLIGHT! MAYBE WE CAN CATCH THEM IN ACTION!

MINUTES LATER...



THEY ARE GLIDERS... BUT THEY'RE WHIPPING UP INTO THE OVERCAST AS IF PULLED BY STRINGS!

DONNEVETTER!

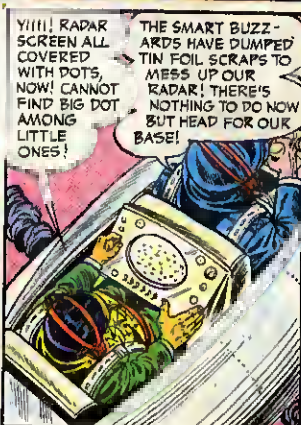
SAPRISTI!

YUMPPING YEEPERS!



STAY OUT OF THE CLOUDS, MEN! I DON'T WANT ANYBODY RAMMING ANOTHER SHIP IN THE FOG! WE'LL TRACK THEM BY RADAR!

OH-OH! RADAR SHOW LITTLE DOTS ALL GO INSIDE BIG DOT VELLY FAST!



YIHH! RADAR SCREEN ALL COVERED WITH DOTS, NOW! CANNOT FIND BIG DOT AMONG LITTLE ONES!

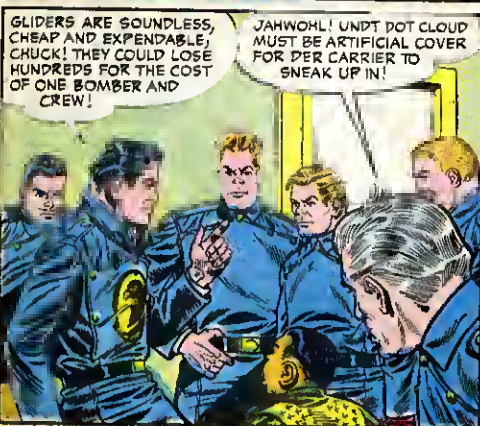
THE SMART BUZZ-ARDS HAVE DUMPED TIN FOIL SCRAPS TO MESS UP OUR RADAR! THERE'S NOTHING TO DO NOW BUT HEAD FOR OUR BASE!



BACK AT THE FAMED BLACKHAWK ISLAND BASE...

WE KNOW NOW THE REPS HAVE A FLYING AIRCRAFT CARRIER THAT CAN LAUNCH GLIDERS, THEN DRAW THEM BACK!

BUT WHY GLIDERS, BLACKHAWK? I DON'T GET IT!



GLIDERS ARE SOUNDLESS, CHEAP AND EXPENDABLE; CHUCK! THEY COULD LOSE HUNDREDS FOR THE COST OF ONE BOMBER AND CREW!

JAHWOHL! UNDT DOT CLOUD MUST BE ARTIFICIAL COVER FOR DER CARRIER TO SNEAK UP IN!

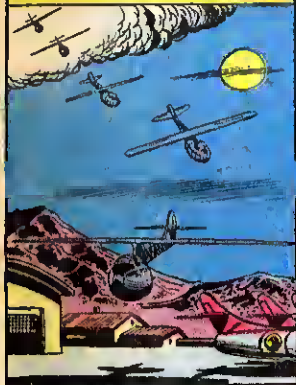


BUT LET'S GET SOME SLEEP NOW AND TACKLE THE BIG PROBLEM IN THE MORNING WITH CLEARER MINDS!

YEAH, SURE! MY HEAD BAN SPINNING LIKE A TOP NOW OVER DAS CRAZY BUSINESS, I TELL YOU!

BLACKHAWK

BUT LATER, WHEN ALL IS QUIET...



THE STUPID BLACKHAWKS SLEEP IN THERE! OUR GLIDERS MADE NO SOUND TO SET OFF THEIR ALARMS! MOVE SOFTLY!



AIEE! AND IN A MINUTE THEIR SLEEP WILL BE FOREVER!

NOW DEATH TO THE BLACKHAWKS! LET NONE AWAKEN!



YIIIII! THEY WERE ONLY DUMMIES!



WE THOUGHT THE SAME THING ABOUT YOU AND YOUR MOB!



DON'T YOU KNOW OUR ELECTRONIC DETECTORS AWAKEN US IF EVEN A MOUSE STIRS ANYWHERE ON BLACKHAWK ISLAND!

EEEEHHH! GET OUT! GET BACK TO YOUR GLIDERS AND TAKE OFF!

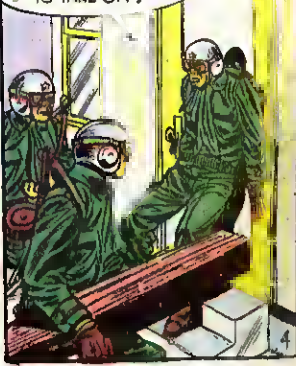


WHEEE! LIIDE 'EM, CHINESE COWBOY.

HAWK. AAAAAAAA



QUICK! BAR THE DOOR! IT WILL GIVE US TIME TO TAKE OFF!



BLACKHAWK



WE HAVE ESCAPED! TO THE GLIDERS AND AWAY QUICKLY!



READY, EVERYBODY! NOW HIT THAT DOOR ALTOGETHER!

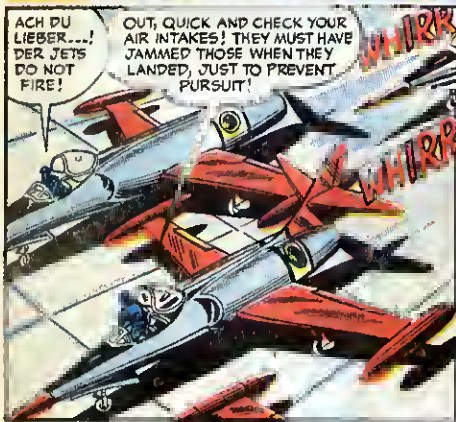
OH, WOE! CHOP CHOP HAVE FINE IDEA...SO GOOD IT SCARES HONORABLE SELF... BUT MUST DO SAME FOR SAKE OF BLACK-HAWK VICTORY!



A MOMENT LATER, UNDER THEIR COMBINED ASSAULTS...

WE MADE IT! BUT THERE GO THE GLIDERS...SHOOTING STRAIGHT UP TOWARD THE CLOUD! GET TO OUR JETS AND CHASE THEM!

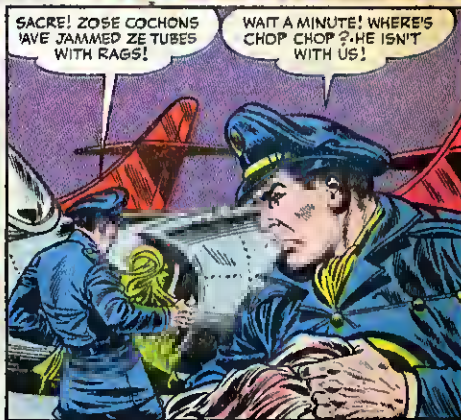
YIMINY YUPITER! THEY BAN YERKED UP LIKE YO-YOS!



ACH DU LIEBER...! DER JETS DO NOT FIRE!

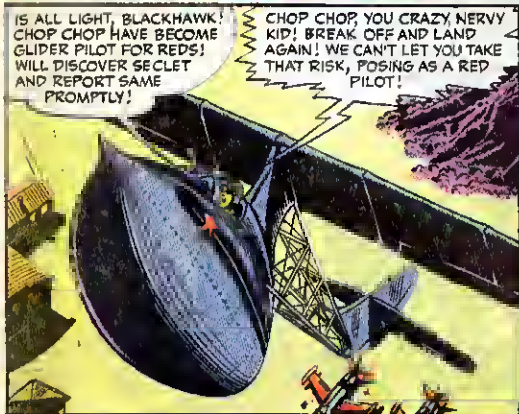
OUT, QUICK AND CHECK YOUR AIR INTAKES! THEY MUST HAVE JAMMED THOSE WHEN THEY LANDED, JUST TO PREVENT PURSUIT!

WHIRP WHIRP



SACRE! ZOSE COCHONS AVE JAMMED ZE TUBES WITH RAGS!

WAIT A MINUTE! WHERE'S CHOP CHOP? HE ISN'T WITH US!



IS ALL LIGHT, BLACKHAWK! CHOP CHOP HAVE BECOME GLIDER PILOT FOR REDS! WILL DISCOVER SECTET AND REPORT SAME PROMPTLY!

CHOP CHOP, YOU CRAZY NERVY KID! BREAK OFF AND LAND AGAIN! WE CAN'T LET YOU TAKE THAT RISK, POSING AS A RED PILOT!



SO SOLL, BUT CANNOT CONTROL GLIDER! IT CLIMB WITHOUT POWER! WILL KEEP BELT RADIO OPEN ON GUIDE BEAM SO BLACKHAWKS CAN FOLLOW!

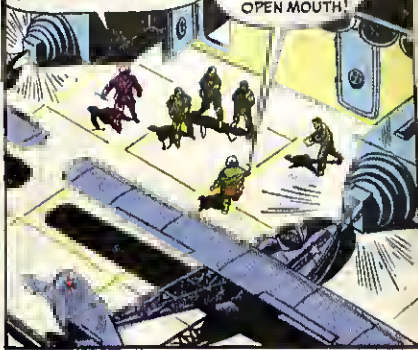
WE'VE CLEARED THE JETS! WE'LL BE NEARBY WHEREVER YOU GO!

OH, WOE! CARRIER IS BIG AIRPLANE HELD UP BY HELICOPTERS! IS GIANT ELECTROMAGNET THAT DRAWS GLIDERS BACK TO LANDING FIELD!

I GUESSED AS MUCH! KEEP YOUR GUIDE BEAM ON, CHOP CHOP, AND DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH! WE'LL RESCUE YOU... SOMEHOW!

GRAB THAT ONE! IT'S NOT OUR COMRADE WANG! HE DOES NOT CARRY THE IDENTIFICATION SIGNAL!

OH, MISERIES! HAVE BETRAYED UNHAPPY SELF BEFORE EVEN OPEN MOUTH!



I AM COMRADE NICHIVO, INVENTOR OF THE FLYING CARRIER! AND YOU ARE ONE OF THE STUPID BLACKHAWKS! I RECOGNIZE YOU!

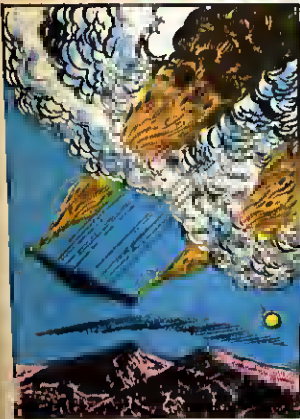
SO SOLLU! I AM STUPID ALL BY SELF TO THLUST HEAD INTO NOOSE IN MOST UNHAPPY MANNER!

QUICKLY, COMRADES! RETRACT HELICOPTER VANES! TURN ON JETS! WE MUST GET FAR AWAY QUICKLY BEFORE HIS COMRADES FIND HIM!



A MOMENT LATER...

UNLOAD TIN FOIL STRIPS TO CONFUSE THEIR RADAR! WE WILL BE A THOUSAND MILES FROM HERE BEFORE WE PERSUADE THIS FOOLISH ONE TO TELL SECRETS!



HALF AN HOUR LATER...

NOW, WE ARE FAR BEYOND THE RANGE OF YOUR BLACKHAWKS' RADAR! YOU WILL NOW TELL US HOW MUCH THEY KNOW OF MY OPERATION!

CHOP CHOP VELLU SOLLU! HAVE BEEN BITTEN BY MAD RED! HAVE BAD CASE OF LOCKJAW! CANNOT TALK!

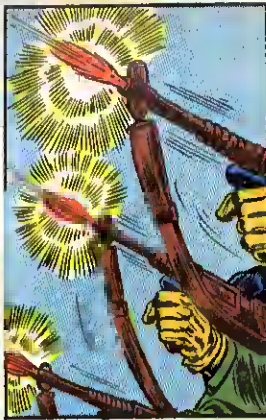


HE'S AS STUBBORN AS ALL THE BLACKHAWKS! GET RID OF HIM AND WE'LL CHANGE BASE! I HAVE NO TIME TO FOOL WITH STUPID TOOLS OF CAPITALISM!



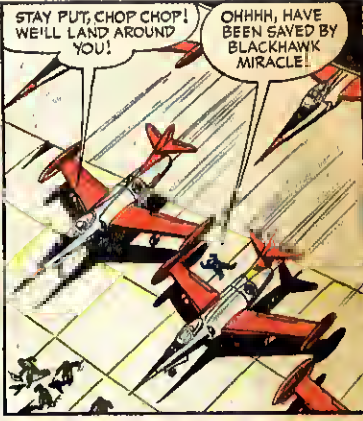


HE WON'T
TALK...SO...



STAY PUT, CHOP CHOP!
WE'LL LAND AROUND
YOU!

OHhhh, HAVE
BEEN SAVED BY
BLACKHAWK
MIRACLE!



I HEAR YOU'RE THE HEAD CHEESE
IN THIS MOUSETRAP! HERE'S WHERE
THE FREE WORLD BEATS A PATH TO
YOUR DOOR!

I'D RATHER BEAT
RHYTHMS ON HIS JAW,
BLACKHAWK!



THE FIGHT IS SHORT AND SHARP, FOR NO AGGRES-
SOR HAS EVER BEEN ABLE TO STAND AGAINST
BLACKHAWK FURY!



YOU COULDN'T FIND
US THIS QUICKLY!
WE THREW OUT TIN
FOIL TO UPSET
YOUR RADAR!

WE DIDN'T
NEED RADAR!
WE HAD ONE
BRAVE BOY TO
GUIDE US...



CHOP CHOP GAVE
US A GUIDE BEAM
FROM HIS BELT
RADIO! WE ROPE
IT RIGHT IN FOR
A LANDING!

CHOP CHOP
THINK NEW
FLYING CARRIER
BE VELLY NICE
GIFT TO GIVE
NATIONALIST
CHINA!



AND LATER, WITH THE WEIRD MON-
STER IN NATIONALIST CHINA HANDS...

♪ ♪
WE DID OUR JOBS...WE MET THE FOE
WE THINK WE HAVE A RIGHT TO CROW...
AS BLACKHAWKS! ♪ ♪



INTERCEPTED PERIL

THE Blackhawks had scored again for justice and democracy against the traitorous plotters in Zingra City, but in Zingra the formal duel is not only legal, but practically necessary in some cases. When Colonel Farbo struck Blackhawk publicly, Blackhawk challenged the colonel to a duel, and the colonel, as challenged party, chose pistols.

The meeting took place in the park behind the Government palace. At the word, "Fire!" Blackhawk skillfully shot the gun from his adversary's hand, wounding the fingers that had held it so that Colonel Farbo could not be much danger to anyone for a month or more. But, as Blackhawk turned away, another sinister figure, Major Pordez, confronted him and slapped his face.

"Let me fight heem," begged Andre at Blackhawk's elbow, but Blackhawk, as the offended party, was obliged to challenge. The major chose swords, and within five minutes sagged in the arms of his seconds, his right arm pierced and helpless. Yet again someone strode toward Blackhawk, but Blackhawk suddenly shot out his own fist. The stranger staggered back from the blow.

"I am Captain Drokdsder," stuttered the angry fellow. "I—"

"Yes, I know," snapped Blackhawk. "You're one of a dozen men sworn to provoke duels with me, one after another, until one of you is lucky enough to kill me. Am I right? But this time I slapped you. You must challenge me. Why don't your friends do likewise, here and now? They're all present in this crowd."

"I do challenge you," spluttered the captain.

"So do I," said one of his friends. "And II!" "And II!" A chorus of voices threw their defiance at Blackhawk.

"There are twelve of them and seven of us," whispered Chuck to his leader. "But we've fought worse odds than that before."

"Stop worrying, Chuck," Blackhawk bade him. "The challenges are for me alone. Well," and he faced his knot of scowling foemen, "I am the challenged party, and I can choose the weapons. I choose—FISTS!"

"Curse him," muttered the captain. "No single one of us can defeat him in boxing."

"Oh," threw back Blackhawk, grinning fiercely. "I haven't time to take you on one after another. I propose that all of you attack me at once." He pointed toward the palace. "There

is a large room on the first floor. I propose that the shutters be closed, the lights turned off, and all of us go in together. You twelve and myself—thirteen in all! And fight until the question is decided!"

The conspirators looked at each other with cunning winks. How could even Blackhawk face and conquer twelve desperate foemen with his bare hands? "Agreed!" snarled Captain Drokdsder.

The other Blackhawks watched as their chief led the way into the palace, and to the room of which he spoke. He gestured his twelve opponents into the dark interior, followed them in, and closed the door. Outside, Andre groaned as he heard the key click in the lock.

"Ma foi," mourned Andre. "For ze wan time, I theenk Blackhawk has taken on too much work!"

"No, no," smiled Chop Chop. "Blackhawk allee time say Chop Chop is most smart of Blackhawks, and Chop Chop smart enough to guess what happen in there. Listen!"

From the locked room resounded the noise of mighty blows given and received. There were cries of pain, the thuds of falling bodies. The walls shook and vibrated. Then, with equal suddenness, there was dead silence.

"Look," muttered Olaf, pointing. "Das door ban come open."

Wide swung the door. The Blackhawks stared, not daring to hope. Then into view stepped their chief, smiling and calm. He breathed easily, as though he had not exerted himself in the slightest. There was no mark upon him. Not even his hair was disordered.

"Call doctors and ambulances," he said. "Our friends are pretty badly beaten up in there."

Stanislaus found his voice. "But how—" he began.

"Perfectly simple," said Blackhawk. "It was dark. All I had to do was slip into a quiet corner. They were determined to smash me, they struck out at everything in reach. They practically beat each other to a pulp. Well," and Blackhawk yawned, as if slightly bored, "now we can fly away to our next job."

"Donnerwetter!" cried Hendrickson. "Dot vas der easiest vay to beat dem! Vy didn't ve think of dot, instead of vorrying?"

"For the same reason those twelve bruisers didn't think of it," Blackhawk answered him. "Because I didn't explain it to you before it happened."

BLACKHAWK

BLACKHAWK

THE TRAIL WAS HOT! THE SCENT WAS STRONG, GIVING OFF A PARTICULARLY VILE RED ODOR! THE PREY WAS WEST GERMANY'S BIGGEST AND MOST DANGEROUS SPY RING! AND THE REWARD FOR THE BLACKHAWKS' PERILOUS MISSION INTO THE BRISTLING STRONGHOLD OF COMMIE INTRIGUE WAS...

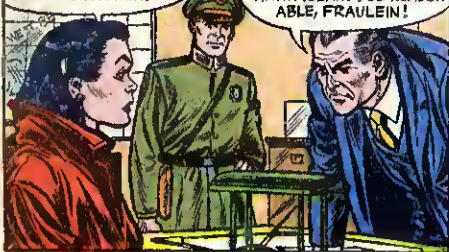
THE RED PROFESSOR'S SECRET



AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN ESSEN, WEST GERMANY, A TENSE, BEAUTIFUL WOMAN SHAKES HER HEAD AT ALL SUGGESTIONS MADE TO HER BY GERMAN LAW OFFICERS...

I WILL TELL WHAT I KNOW TO ONLY ONE MAN! I KNOW HE IS IN GERMANY NOW ON A SPECIAL MISSION! BRING HIM HERE AND I WILL SPEAK WITH HIM!

BUT BLACKHAWK HAS COMPLETED HIS ASSIGNMENT IN BERLIN! HE AND HIS MEN HAVE PROBABLY LEFT ALREADY FOR BLACKHAWK ISLAND! BE REASONABLE, FRAULEIN!



I AM REASONABLE! I WILL ENTRUST NO ONE BUT THE BLACKHAWKS WITH THIS DELICATE SITUATION! THE BLACKHAWKS OR I DO NOT SPEAK!

VERY WELL! THE BLACKHAWKS, RICHTER! CONTACT BERLIN! SCHNELL!

JA, HERR KOCH! BERLIN, BITTE!



A HALF HOUR LATER, AT THE AIRPORT IN WEST BERLIN...

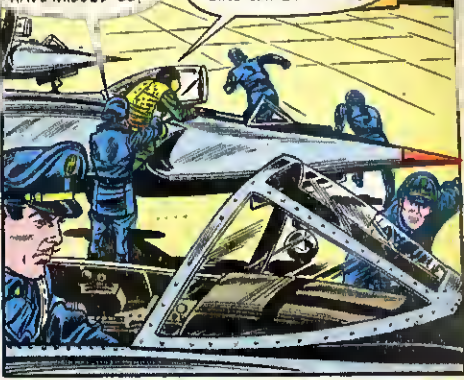
VOT ISS IT, BLACKHAWK?

THE MESSAGE DOESN'T EXPLAIN HENDRICKSON! EXCEPT THAT WE'RE REQUESTED TO STOP OVER IN ESSEN ON A MATTER OF EXTRAORDINARY IMPORTANCE!



TWO MINUTES LATER AND THIS WOULD HAVE MISSED US!

VELLY SOLLY IT DIDN'T! CHOP CHOP LIKE TLOUBLE LIKE CAT LIKE DOG!



SHORTLY AFTER...

THAT'S ESSEN DOWN THERE, HENDRICKSON! WE'LL EXPECT YOU TO CARRY ON MOST OF THE TALK WITH THE GERMANS!

JA, BLACKHAWK! CHERMANY ISS MY OLD HOME!



A HALF HOUR LATER, AT ESSEN POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

WE APPRECIATE THE CONFIDENCE YOU SHOW IN US, FRAULEIN HEGEL, BUT WHAT IS ALL THIS MYSTERY ABOUT?

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MY FIANCE, PROFESSOR GARTMANN OF ESSEN UNIVERSITY! I WILL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING ONCE WE ARE ALONE!



MOMENTS LATER, AS THE BLACKHAWKS ARE LEFT ALONE WITH THE DISTRAUGHT GIRL IN A POLICE CONFERENCE ROOM...

VICTOR AND I WERE TO BE MARRIED NEXT MONTH! I KNEW VERY LITTLE ABOUT VICTOR'S EXPERIMENTATIONS IN PHYSICS! HE ONLY TOLD ME THAT THEY WERE OF THE MOST VITAL IMPORTANCE, MILITARILY, TO THE WESTERN POWERS!

VOT HAPPENED TO VICTOR GARTMANN, FRAULEIN? DO YOU KNOW?



NOBODY KNOWS BETTER! IT HAPPENED TWO DAYS AGO! WE WERE LEAVING A NIGHTCLUB AFTER MIDNIGHT, WHEN SUDDENLY, ON THE DESERTED STREET, A DARK LIMOUSINE PULLED UP ALONGSIDE US! THREE MEN LEAPED OUT!

PROFESSOR GARTMANN, GET INTO THE CAR OR WE SHOOT!

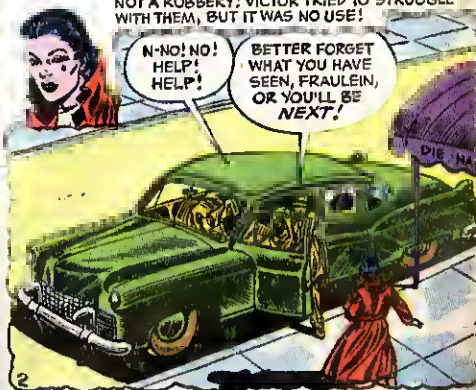
B-BUT WHO ARE YOU WHAT DO YOU WANT?



THEY TOLD VICTOR NOTHING EXCEPT THAT IT WAS NOT A ROBBERY! VICTOR TRIED TO STRUGGLE WITH THEM, BUT IT WAS NO USE!

N-NO! NO! HELP! HELP!

BETTER FORGET WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN, FRAULEIN, OR YOU'LL BE NEXT!





B-BUT I'LL NEVER FORGET! I LOVE VICTOR! HE MUST BE IN GREAT DANGER! Y YOU MUST HELP ME FIND HIM!

DOT'S NOT VE'RE HERE FOR, FRAU-LEIN HEGEL! DO YOU HAF ANY IDEA VERE HE MAY BE?



JA! THIS MORNING I RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM VICTOR! HE HAD ELUDED HIS CAPTORS FOR A MOMENT... TILL THEY FOUND HIM AND DRAGGED HIM AWAY FROM THE PHONE IN MID-SENTENCE! HE TOLD ME THAT YOU, THE BLACKHAWKS, WERE IN GERMANY! THAT ONLY YOU CAN BE TRUSTED TO FIND HIM... FOR HE IS IN THE HANDS OF THE REDS!



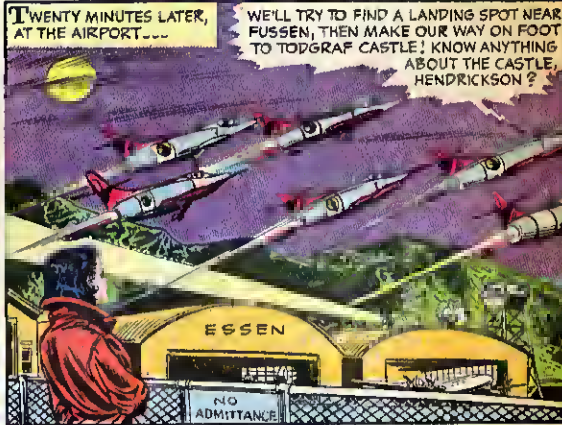
SOMEHOW THEY LEARNED OF HIS SECRET RESEARCH! THEY WISH TO SMUGGLE HIM INTO EASTERN GERMANY! HE WILL ONLY BE AT THIS PLACE ANOTHER 24 HOURS! THEN HE WILL BE SPIRITED AWAY FOREVER!

WHY DID HE PHONE YOU, FRAULEIN? WHY DIDN'T HE PHONE THE POLICE?



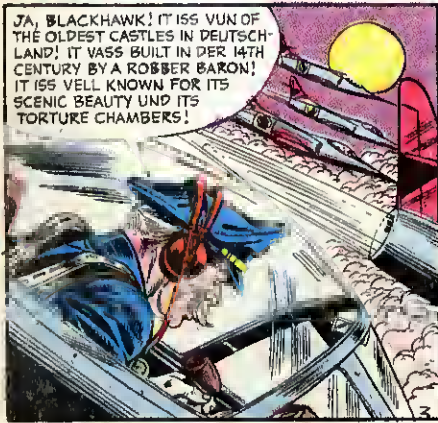
BECAUSE, AS I SAID BEFORE, HE TRUSTS ONLY ME AND YOU! HE BELIEVES THERE ARE RED SPIES EVERYWHERE... EVEN AMONG THE POLICE! VICTOR SAID HE'S AT TODGRAF CASTLE, NEAR FUSSEN, IN THE BAVARIAN ALPS!

RELY UPON US, FRAU-LEIN HEGEL! WE'LL BE AT TODGRAF CASTLE TONIGHT!

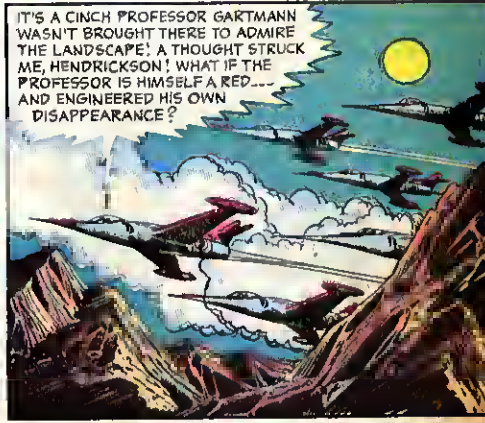


TWENTY MINUTES LATER, AT THE AIRPORT...

WE'LL TRY TO FIND A LANDING SPOT NEAR FUSSEN, THEN MAKE OUR WAY ON FOOT TO TODGRAF CASTLE! KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE CASTLE, HENDRICKSON?

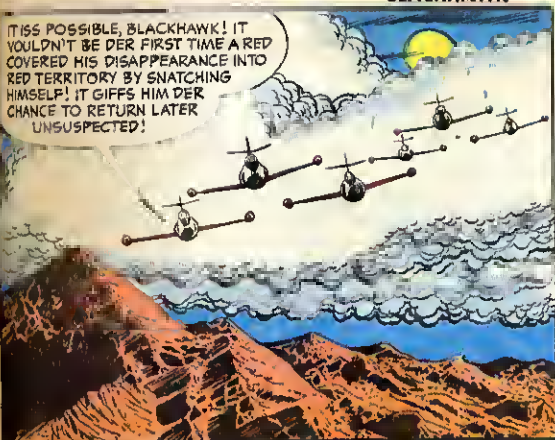


JA, BLACKHAWK! IT IS VUN OF THE OLDEST CASTLES IN DEUTSCHLAND! IT VASS BUILT IN DER 14TH CENTURY BY A ROBBER BARON! IT IS VELL KNOWN FOR ITS SCENIC BEAUTY UND ITS TORTURE CHAMBERS!



IT'S A CINCH PROFESSOR GARTMANN WASN'T BROUGHT THERE TO ADMIRE THE LANDSCAPE! A THOUGHT STRUCK ME, HENDRICKSON! WHAT IF THE PROFESSOR IS HIMSELF A RED... AND ENGINEERED HIS OWN DISAPPEARANCE?

IT IS POSSIBLE, BLACKHAWK! IT WOULDN'T BE DER FIRST TIME A RED COVERED HIS DISAPPEARANCE INTO RED TERRITORY BY SNATCHING HIMSELF! IT GIFFS HIM DER CHANCE TO RETURN LATER UNSUSPECTED!



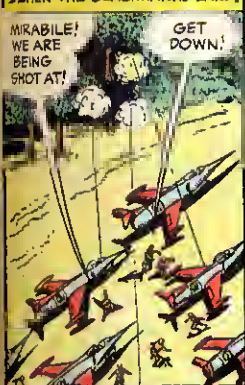
MAYBE YES! MAYBE NO! IN ANY CASE, MEN, WE'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL!... I SEE A LANDING SPOT! FOLLOW ME DOWN!



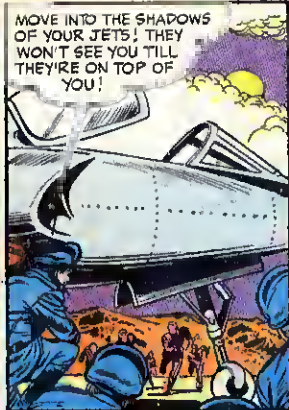
WHEN THE BLACKHAWKS LAND!

MIRABILE! WE ARE BEING SHOT AT!

GET DOWN!



MOVE INTO THE SHADOWS OF YOUR JETS! THEY WON'T SEE YOU TILL THEY'RE ON TOP OF YOU!



OKAY! AT 'EM!

OUI, WE MUST THANK ZEM FOR ZERE KIND RECEPTION!



ACH! N-NO MORE! WE GIVE UP!

THEN THROW DOWN YOUR GUNS!



SPILL IT! YOU SEEMED TO BE EXPECTING US! WHY DID YOU FIRE AT US?

I DO NOT SPEAK! KILL US BUT WE STILL KEEP SILENT!

WE BAN WASTE OUR TIME, BLACKHAWK! LET'S YUST TIE 'EM UP AND GO ON TO TODGRAF CASTLE!





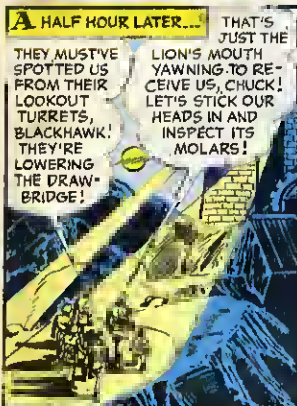
YOU'RE RIGHT, OLAF! IF THEY *DID* SPEAK, WE COULDN'T *BELIEVE* 'EM ANYWAY! TIE 'EM UP SO THEY CAN'T PASS ON THEIR EXPERIENCE TO WHOEVER SENT 'EM OUT!



MINUTES LATER...

THERE IS TODGRAFF CASTLE, BLACKHAWK! AHEAD OF US!

I WISH IT WERE BEHIND US, STANISLAUS! ALL RIGHT, MEN! LET'S PAY OUR WELL-WISHERS A NOCTURNAL VISIT!



A HALF HOUR LATER...

THAT'S JUST THE LION'S MOUTH YAWNING TO RECEIVE US, CHUCK! LET'S STICK OUR HEADS IN AND INSPECT ITS MOLARS!

THEY MUST'VE SPOTTED US FROM THEIR LOOKOUT TURRETS, BLACKHAWK! THEY'RE LOWERING THE DRAW-BRIDGE!



SACRE! WHO IS ZIS?

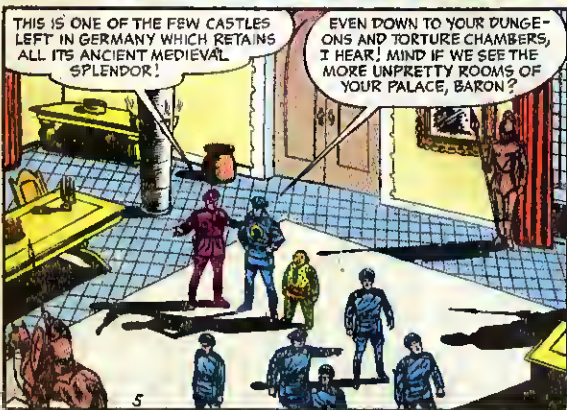
OUR GENIAL HOST!... GREETINGS, FRIEND... IF YOU ARE A FRIEND, WE ARE THE BLACKHAWKS!

AND WHO HAS *NOT* HEARD OF THE FAMED BLACKHAWKS! YOU ARE WELCOME TO TODGRAFF CASTLE! I AM BARON VON HORLA!



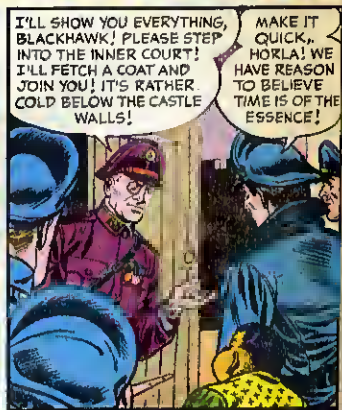
I'LL BE BLUNT WITH YOU, VON HORLA! WE RECEIVED A TIP IN ESSEN THAT A CERTAIN PROFESSOR GARTMANN MIGHT BE *VISITING* YOU! MIND IF WE HAVE A LOOK AROUND?

NATURALLY I KNOW OF NO SUCH VISIT! BUT LET ME CONDUCT YOU ON A TOUR, PERSONALLY!



THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW CASTLES LEFT IN GERMANY WHICH RETAINS ALL ITS ANCIENT MEDIEVAL SPLENDOR!

EVEN DOWN TO YOUR DUNGEONS AND TORTURE CHAMBERS, I HEAR! MIND IF WE SEE THE MORE UNPRETTY ROOMS OF YOUR PALACE, BARON?



I'LL SHOW YOU EVERYTHING, BLACKHAWK! PLEASE STEP INTO THE INNER COURT! I'LL FETCH A COAT AND JOIN YOU! IT'S RATHER COLD BELOW THE CASTLE WALLS!

MAKE IT QUICK, HORLA! WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!

BLACKHAWK



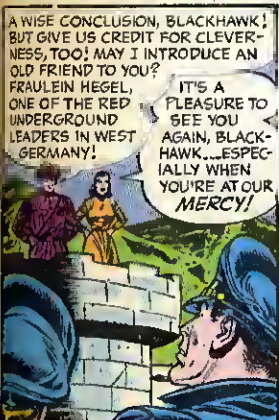
NOT FOR YOU ANY LONGER! YOU'RE GOING **NOWHERE!** FOOLS, QUICK! COVER THEM!

JA, HERR BARON!



B-BLACKHAWK! LOOK! HE LED US INTO A TRAP!

I FEARED AS MUCH, STANISLAUS! STAND STILL! WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE OF ESCAPING HERE!



A WISE CONCLUSION, BLACKHAWK! BUT GIVE US CREDIT FOR CLEVERNESS, TOO! MAY I INTRODUCE AN OLD FRIEND TO YOU?

FRAULEIN HEGEL, ONE OF THE RED UNDERGROUND LEADERS IN WEST GERMANY!

IT'S A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, BLACKHAWK... ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE AT OUR MERCY!



WHAT ABOUT PROFESSOR GARTMANN AND HIS VITAL RESEARCH

VICTOR IS HERE, ALL RIGHT! POOR FOOL! HE NEVER KNEW WHAT STRUCK HIM! HE NEVER DREAMED THAT THE GIRL HE COURTED WAS A COMMUNIST SPY!



IT WAS YOU WE WANTED TO GET RID OF! WE NEEDED BAIT TO LURE THE BLACKHAWKS, THE GREATEST OBSTACLE IN THE WAY OF COMMUNISTS ALL OVER THE WORLD, TO THEIR DOOM! POOR VICTOR WAS OUR BAIT! TAKE THEM TO THE DUNGEON!

PSST, MEN. DON'T FIGHT 'EM... YET! I'VE GOT REASONS!

MINUTES LATER, BENEATH THE CASTLE...



THE BLACKHAWKS! GRETA, W-WHAT HAVE YOU DONE!

LED THEM INTO A TRAP WITH YOU, POOR FOOL, AS THE LURE! I WANTED YOU TO SEE EACH OTHER... BAIT AND BAITED, BEFORE WE DESTROYED YOU BOTH!



CATCHING THE PROFESSOR'S EYE, BLACKHAWK WINKS BROADLY...

UNFORTUNATELY, FRAULEIN HEGEL DOESN'T KNOW EVERYTHING, EH, GARTMANN? SHE SIMPLY THOUGHT YOU WERE UP TO NOTHING IN YOUR LABORATORY, EH?

WHAT THE DEUCE DO YOU MEAN? VICTOR NEVER SPOKE OF ANY SERIOUS RESEARCH IN PHYSICS! VICTOR, DID YOU WORK ON ANYTHING OF VALUE?

